

REMARKS

Claims 24-27, 29, 31-34 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, starting at page 2, numbered paragraph 2, claims 24-27, 29, 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Woolston (U.S. Patent 6,085,176) and Smith et al. (U.S. Patent 6,853,982). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Transmitted herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(a) establishing that the subject matter of the present application was constructively reduced to practice prior to the effective date (March 29, 2001) of Smith et al.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

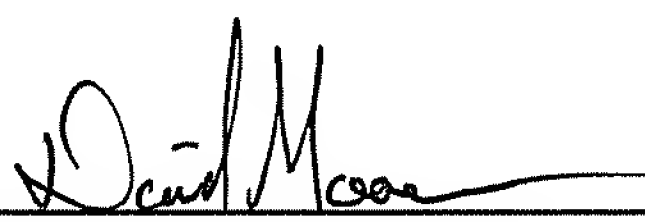
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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